

STURGEON REGULATIONS - STATEWIDE

Under the authority of sections 41101 through 41105 of Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, being sections 324.41101 through 324.41105 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources on October 6, 2005, ordered that for a period of five years the following regulations shall apply to the take of lake sturgeon:

1. Size Limit:

Otsego Lake (Otsego County): 50 inches minimum

Lake St. Clair and St. Clair River: Between 42-50". Fish less than 42" and greater than 50" must be released.

Black Lake (Cheboygan County): 36 inches minimum

2. Seasons:

a) Great Lakes & connecting waters (except Lake St. Clair and St. Clair River) and all inland waters (except Otsego Lake):

Hook and line - July 16-November 30

b) Lake St. Clair & St. Clair River:

Hook and line - July 16-September 30

c) Otsego Lake (Otsego County):

Hook and line - July 16-March 15

d) Black Lake (Cheboygan County):

Spearing/Hook and line- First Saturday in February-Sunday following the second Saturday in February (Sunday of the following weekend), or when the quota of five fish is reached, whichever comes first.

3. Possession Limit:

Otsego Lake (Otsego County): One (1) sturgeon per season. A locking harvest tag must be obtained prior to fishing; a successful angler must tag the fish immediately and register it within 24 hours at a designated registration station.

Lake St. Clair and St. Clair River: One (1) sturgeon per season. A locking harvest tag must be obtained prior to fishing; a successful angler must tag the fish immediately and register it within 24 hours at a designated registration station.

Black Lake (Cheboygan County): A quota fishery will be instituted, with a maximum of five sturgeon being harvested under the quota. One sturgeon per registered angler will be allowed until the maximum harvest level is reached. Further details of the quota system are as follows:

- a. Twenty-five tags will be issued on a daily basis for the entire sturgeon spearing season by means of a pre-season drawing of registered applicants. Season will last till the Sunday following the second Saturday in February OR until the maximum sturgeon harvest level is reached.

- b. Tags will be issued the morning of each fishing day to successful applicants drawn for that day, and will be valid for only that day of fishing.
- c. Fishing hours will be 8:00am until 5:00pm.
- d. Successful applicants will receive a tag and marking flags, both issued in their name. These must be returned to the Department of Natural Resources by 6:00pm daily. The marking flags must be located at opposite corners of successful applicant's fishing shanty, and must be visible from any direction.
- e. All fish harvested must be registered immediately with the Department of Natural Resources at a designated registration station.

All other waters: No possession

This order is assigned number FO-240.06 and is titled "Sturgeon Regulations--Statewide".

This order rescinds the order entitled "Gear Restrictions for Fishing" effective April 1, 2004, and assigned number FO-240.04.

This order shall take immediate effect and shall remain effective through March 31, 2011.